

In the Claims

Please amend page 14, line 1, as follows:

[CLAIMS]

What is claimed is:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (once amended) A process for the deprotection of an Acm-, MBzl- and/or tBu-protected thiol in the absence of a silyl chloride which comprises reacting said protected thiol with an acid in the presence of an oxidising agent at a temperature sufficient to effect deprotection and generation of disulphide bonds.

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (once amended) [A]The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said acid is trifluoroacetic acid.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (once amended) [A]The process as claimed in [either one of claims 1 or 2]claim 1 wherein said oxidising agent is DMSO.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (once amended) [A]The process as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 3]claim 1 wherein deprotection is effected using a TFA/DMSO mixture comprising 1 to 20% DMSO.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (once amended) [A]The process as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 4]claim 1 wherein said protected thiol is present in a peptide.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (once amended) [A]The process as claimed in claim 5 wherein said peptide comprises at least two tBu protected thiols and/or at least two Acm or MBzl protected thiols.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (once amended) [A]The process as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 6]claim 1 wherein tBu protected thiols are deprotected at room temperature.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (once amended) [A]The process as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 7]claim 1 wherein Acm or MBzl protected thiols are deprotected at temperatures of 30°C or above.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

9. (once amended) [A]The process as claimed in claim 8 wherein Acm or MBzl protected thiols are deprotected at temperatures of 50°C or above.

Remarks

Applicants have amended the specification to cross reference the parent application which is a PCT application designating the United States. Applicants have also amended the specification to add the required headings and move the text to be in the required order.

Applicants have amended claims 1-9 to more fully conform with U.S. practice and to delete multiple dependencies. A version of the claims marked up to show the amendments, as well as a clean version of the claims encompassing the amendments, is attached hereto.

Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the International Search Report which issued on International Application number PCT/GB00/02796, of which the